



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Education Service
Washington, D.C. 20420

March 28, 2012

President / Department Head
All Institutions of Higher Learning

Dear Higher Education Executive:

As you are aware, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) introduced the Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2009, an initiative to expand education benefits and to improve the lives of our nation's Veterans. An important part of the new GI Bill is the Yellow Ribbon Program that provides opportunities for Veterans and their dependents to attend programs and institutions whose tuition and fees exceed the standard payable rates. For the 2011-12 academic year, over 2,500 institutions of higher learning opted to enter into an agreement with VA; this resulted in matching contributions paying the difference or a portion thereof between eligible Veterans' actual costs for tuition and fees and the amount payable per the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA is pleased to announce that it is now soliciting for participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Please note that the Yellow Ribbon Program agreement, the respective due date of submission, and procedures are changing for the 2012-13 academic year and subsequent years:

- (1) the new Yellow Ribbon Program agreement is an open-ended agreement as clearly explained in item 1 of the document;
- (2) the due date is now May 15 and projected for subsequent years;
- (3) changes to the agreement established for the 2012-13 academic year as well as a withdrawal option will be offered yearly, from approximately March 15 to May 15, 2013 and projected for subsequent years.

Please see the "Updated Frequently Asked Questions on the Yellow Ribbon Program" dated March 2012, included with this letter on the website. These FAQs augment existing information on the website and address some changes that occurred since the program was implemented.

If requesting new or continued participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program, the institution must submit a *signed* agreement via email with a scanned PDF document or via fax or mail. We strongly recommend that IHLs submit their signed agreement through email, requesting a confirmation "read receipt" as proof of receipt by the VA. Please submit only one signed agreement through one method of delivery.

Included with this letter on the website are the agreement form and instructions. Please use these documents to help ensure accurate and timely submission of the agreement form.

With your support, we can help ensure that our nation's Veterans and dependents receive the education benefits they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith M. Wilson", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Keith M. Wilson
Director, Education Service